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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 1996

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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MAY 2 1996

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
OLA

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
The Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
(CC Docket No. 96-45)

Dear Mr. Chairman,

As members of the bipartisan Senate Education Technology Working Group, we are writing to urge you and members of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service to act swiftly to fully implement Section 254(h) of the Telecommunications Competition and Deregulations Act of 1996, known as the Snowe-Rockefeller-Exon-Kerrey provision. This provision is intended to ensure that schools, libraries, and rural health care facilities get affordable telecommunications rates necessary to gain access to the information superhighway.

This provision received strong bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate, and we endorse its fundamental goals. It will be essential for schools and libraries to be part of the information superhighway so that all children and adults will have access to crucial emerging technology. We should not let a two-tier education system develop in which wealthier school districts train students on advanced telecommunications but rural areas and poorer school districts are left out. Libraries offer a basic, important link to the information superhighway for all adults, regardless of income.

Implementation of the Snowe-Rockefeller-Exon-Kerrey provision will require creative efforts and consistent oversight to ensure that the provision meets the needs of schools and libraries. It is also essential for definitions of special services and advanced service to be allowed to evolve to include changes and improvements in technology.

Also, we believe that it is vital for the Joint Board to carefully review the special challenges and needs of rural schools and libraries and take action to ensure that the discount provided makes access for these community users truly affordable. The provision was specifically based on the universal service concept to ensure that discounts are directed to individual schools and libraries and it will be

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Chairman Reed Hundt
April 29, 1996

page two


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We look forward to working with you to promote education technology in creative, exciting ways.

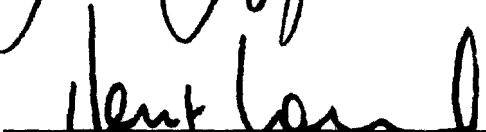
Sincerely,


Senator Olympia Snowe



Senator Jay Rockefeller

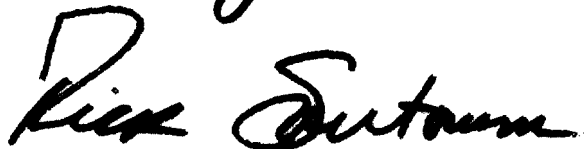

Senator James M. Jeffords

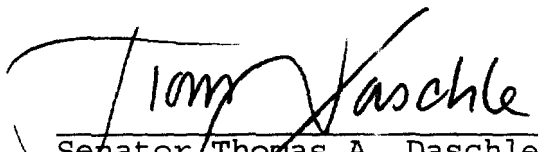

Senator Robert Kerrey



Senator Kent Conrad


Senator Larry Pressler


Senator Wendell F. Ford

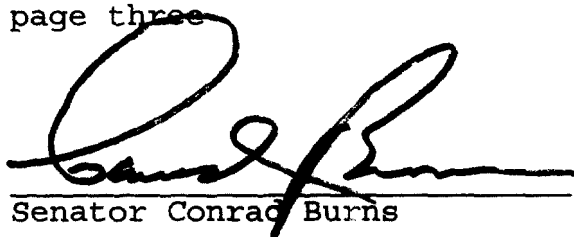

Senator Rick Santorum


Senator Thomas A. Daschle


Senator Carol Moseley-Braun

Chairman Reed Hundt
April 29, 1996

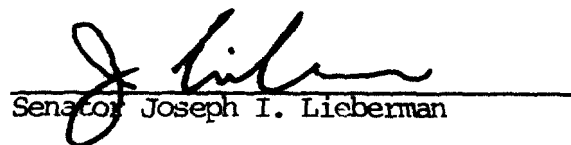
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Senator Conrad Burns



Senator Jeff Bingaman



Senator Joseph I. Lieberman



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THE CHAIRMAN

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 12, 1996

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senate
495 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1903

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Dear Senator Snowe:

Thank you for your letter of April 29, 1996, regarding implementation of Section 254(h) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The new Section 254(h) establishes universal service support for schools, libraries and health care providers. The Senate Education Technology Working Group's endorsement of Section 254(h) significantly furthers our efforts to properly implement the provision.

We are intensely working with the states on a Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service to implement this section of the Act. On April 12, 1996, we held a meeting of the Joint Board and heard from representatives of government, education and library groups, who presented their views on how telecommunications technology can improve the quality of education in the United States. Speakers from the field of telemedicine also made presentations on how the Act can be implemented to further the deployment of telecommunications services for health care providers that operate in rural areas.

A copy of your letter has been included in the record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). Your recommendations and views will be carefully considered by the Joint Board

We appreciate your continued interest in these important issues.

Sincerely yours,

Reed E. Hundt
Chairman

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
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Washington, DC 20554

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
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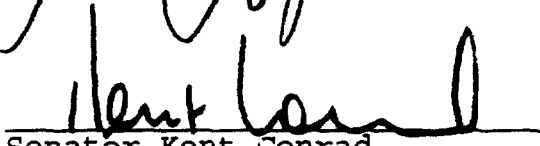
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Senator Jay Rockefeller



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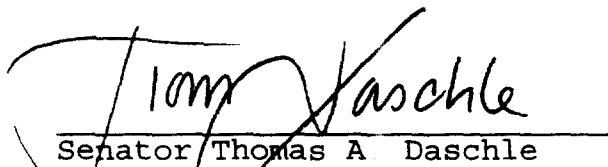

Senator Robert Kerrey


Senator Kent Conrad


Senator Larry Pressler


Senator Wendell H. Ford



Senator Rick Santorum


Senator Thomas A. Daschle


Senator Carol Moseley-Braun

Chairman Reed Hundt
April 29, 1996


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Senator Conrad Burns



Senator Jeff Bingaman



Senator Joseph I. Lieberman



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable James M. Jeffords
United States Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510-4503

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Senator Jeffords:

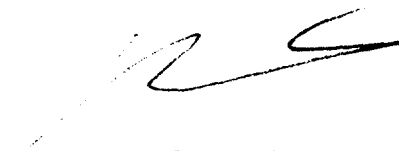
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Chairman

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1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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OLA

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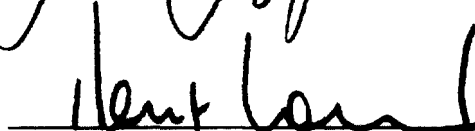
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Senator Jay Rockefeller



Senator James M. Jeffords

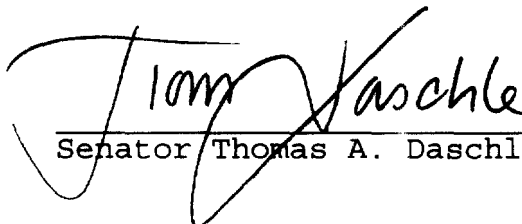

Senator Robert Kerrey


Senator Kent Conrad


Senator Larry Pressler


Senator Wendell H. Ford



Senator Rick Santorum


Senator Thomas A. Daschle


Senator Carol Moseley-Braun

Chairman Reed Hundt
April 29, 1996


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Senator Conrad Burns



Senator Jeff Bingaman



Senator Joseph I. Lieberman

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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 12, 1996

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable Kent Conrad
United States Senate
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3403

Dear Senator Conrad:

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Reed E. Hundt
Chairman

*Competition in your leadership in
the & other areas*

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
The Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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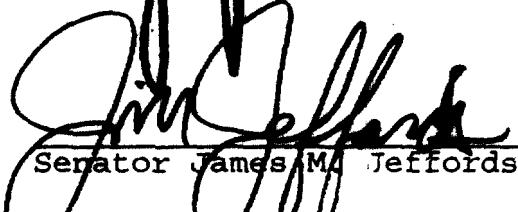
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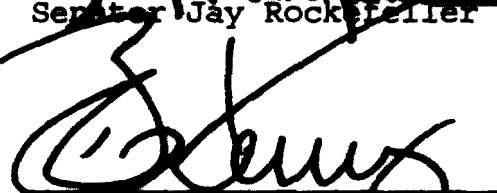
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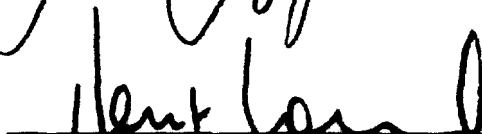
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Senator Olympia Snowe



Senator Jay Rockefeller


Senator James M. Jeffords

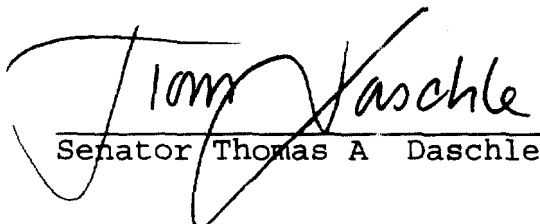

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Senator Larry Pressler


Senator Wendell H. Ford

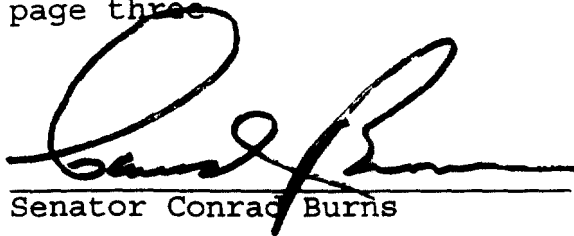

Senator Rick Santorum


Senator Thomas A. Daschle


Senator Carol Moseley-Braun

Chairman Reed Hundt
April 29, 1996

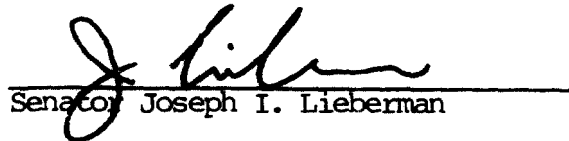
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Senator Conrad Burns



Senator Jeff Bingaman



Senator Joseph I. Lieberman



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THE CHAIRMAN

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Wendell H. Ford
United States Senate
173A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Dear Senator Ford:

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We appreciate your continued interest in these important issues.

Sincerely yours,

Reed E. Hundt
Chairman

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
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1919 M Street, N.W.
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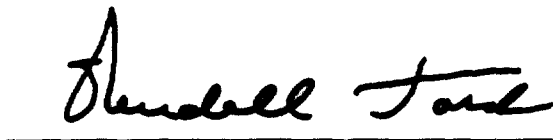

Senator Jay Rockefeller


Senator James M. Jeffords

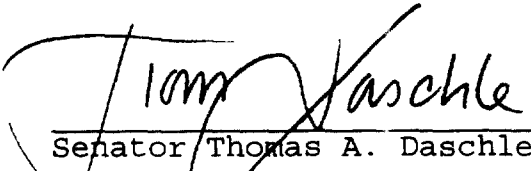

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Senator Kent Conrad


Senator Larry Pressler


Senator Wendell H. Ford



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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Thomas A. Daschle
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510-4103

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A copy of your letter has been included in the record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). Your recommendations regarding the importance of affordable access for rural schools and libraries and your views on directing discounts to individual schools and libraries will be carefully considered by the Joint Board. The Joint Board will also consider your suggestions on how the services provided to schools and libraries under Section 254(h) of the Act must evolve to reflect changes and improvements in technology.

We appreciate your continued interest in these important issues.

Sincerely yours,

Reed E. Hundt
Chairman

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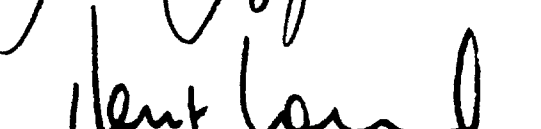
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senate
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4802

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Dear Senator Rockefeller:

Thank you for your letter of April 29, 1996, regarding implementation of Section 254(h) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The new Section 254(h) establishes universal service support for schools, libraries and health care providers. The Senate Education Technology Working Group's endorsement of Section 254(h) significantly furthers our efforts to properly implement the provision.

We are intensely working with the states on a Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service to implement this section of the Act. On April 12, 1996, we held a meeting of the Joint Board and heard from representatives of government, education and library groups, who presented their views on how telecommunications technology can improve the quality of education in the United States. Speakers from the field of telemedicine also made presentations on how the Act can be implemented to further the deployment of telecommunications services for health care providers that operate in rural areas.

A copy of your letter has been included in the record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). Your recommendations and views will be carefully considered by the Joint Board.

We appreciate your continued interest in these important issues.

Sincerely yours,

Reed E. Hundt
Chairman

Jim a great leader!

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
The Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
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Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
(CC Docket No. 96-45)

Dear Mr. Chairman,

As members of the bipartisan Senate Education Technology Working Group, we are writing to urge you and members of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service to act swiftly to fully implement Section 254(h) of the Telecommunications Competition and Deregulations Act of 1996, known as the Snowe-Rockefeller-Exon-Kerrey provision. This provision is intended to ensure that schools, libraries, and rural health care facilities get affordable telecommunications rates necessary to gain access to the information superhighway.

This provision received strong bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate, and we endorse its fundamental goals. It will be essential for schools and libraries to be part of the information superhighway so that all children and adults will have access to crucial emerging technology. We should not let a two-tier education system develop in which wealthier school districts train students on advanced telecommunications but rural areas and poorer school districts are left out. Libraries offer a basic, important link to the information superhighway for all adults, regardless of income.

Implementation of the Snowe-Rockefeller-Exon-Kerrey provision will require creative efforts and consistent oversight to ensure that the provision meets the needs of schools and libraries. It is also essential for definitions of special services and advanced service to be allowed to evolve to include changes and improvements in technology.

Also, we believe that it is vital for the Joint Board to carefully review the special challenges and needs of rural schools and libraries and take action to ensure that the discount provided makes access for these community users truly affordable. The provision was specifically based on the universal service concept to ensure that discounts are directed to individual schools and libraries and it will be

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